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COMMITTEE OF 25 CALLS 'DAY OF PROTEST' FOR 27TH

PY211945 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1552 GMT 21 Apr 79 PY

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 21 Apr (NA)--The negotiations on unification by the leaders of the two labor union groups virtually failed today when the Committee of 25 ordered a "day of national protest" against various government measures which have been taken or will possibly be taken and to request, among other things, the restoration of the purchasing power of salaries, the normalization of labor union activities and the validity of the collective wage agreement law.

The resolution is contained in a communique delivered by the leaders of the 25, Roberto Garcia (taxidrivers), Fernando Donaires (paper mill workers), Roberto Digon (tobacco workers), Jose Valle (insurance employees) and Enrique Mico (tailors) after a meeting held at the headquarters of the millworkers union.

The document says that the day of national protest will be observed on 27 April from 0000 until 2400, and that the way to observe it is to "remain at home with our families in mediation with the desire to be understood." " Everything seems to indicate that the decision means the final failure of the unification talks between that group and the National Labor Commission.

The document contains a harsh criticism of the economic policy, it calls an attack not only against the wages of the workers, their benefits, social works and the labor unions, but which also undermines the basis of national unity."

ECONOMY MINISTRY RELEASES BUDGET DEFICIT FIGURES

PY211318 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2005 GMT 20 Apr 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Apr (NA)--The Economy Minister this afternoon officially issued Law No 21,981 regarding the general budget of the national administration for the present year. This predicts a deficit in the Treasury equivalent to 1.8 percent, while the total balance for the public sector should not exceed an equivalent of 3.9 percent of the GDP.

Expenses which have been allocated total 20,481,821,000 billion [as received], and are divided [words indistinct] 32 percent of this total; followed by defense expenses with 17 percent; social welfare with 14.5 percent; public debt with 10.7 percent; culture and education with 10.1 percent; general administration 8.3 percent; security 4.9 percent; health 3 percent; and technical science 2.7 percent. As in the previous year, the deficit will be financed by resources from tax collection and from debts contracted in foreign and domestic capital markets, but there will be no net monetary issuance from the central bank to cover this deficit.

GOVERNMENT TO IMPROVE CONDITIONS FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS

PY202220 Paris AFP in Spanish 1709 GMT 20 Apr 79 PY

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 20 Apr (AFP)--The Justice Ministry said today that the Argentine Government has decided to make living conditions easier for political detainees, since circumstances now permit this. According to a reliable source, it is also believed that the government plans to take measures in the next few weeks to release about 300 prisoners. According to figures obtained from the Justice Ministry, 2,700 prisoners, among whom are 64 foreigners, are in detention for subversive crimes. A year ago it was said at the ministry that the figure was 3,740.

A decree elaborated by a commission made up of representatives of the Interior and Justice ministries and the three branches of the armed forces, and signed by President Jorge Rafael Videla, aims at improving to a certain extent the conditions of detention for the special prisoners, making their internal rules similar to those of prisoners under the common law. The decree, which has not yet been published, gives defending lawyers free access to their clients, permits more frequent visits by relatives and facilitates visits by consular officials to the foreigners. It also grants the prisoners the possibility of working, reading and studying (books, newspapers, magazines and television will be put at their disposal) and of practicing gymnastics and sports. Woman prisoners may have their small children with them during their imprisonment, and all prisoners will be authorized to make visits to their homes in case of serious illness or death in their families.

Justice Minister Alberto Rodriguez Varela explained to AFP that the adoption of the decree had become possible because of the new conditions prevailing in Argentina. He said: The situation in this country has changed through the defeat of subversion, and it has become possible to take this kind of measure without endangering internal security.

As part of the improvement of prison conditions, the minister also announced the opening of a prison with ultramodern installations in Buenos Aires on 23 April. In addition to this prison, named Unit No 1, there are political prisoners in La Plata (Buenos Aires Province), Rawson (the coast of southern Argentina) and Villa Devoto (Buenos Aires), reserved exclusively for women.

ARGENTINE-GDR JOINT COMMISSION RELEASES COMMUNIQUE

PY211919 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0028 GMT 21 Apr 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Apr (TELAM)--International Economic Relations Under Secretary Juan Dumas and GDR Foreign Trade Deputy Minister Wilhelm Bastian today signed the final communique of the Argentine-GDR Joint Commission, by which mutual credits in the amount of $70 million were agreed on. After reviewing the work done by both missions during the negotiations, the officials expressed their desire for fulfillment of the agreement reached between the two countries.

According to information provided by the International Trade and Economic Negotiations Secretariat, among the main topics discussed were the favorable development of trade, the suitability of making the Argentine customs tariff policy known to the GDR authorities and the conditions required for granting lines of credit to finance mutual exports, in the amount of $20 million each, between the official banks of both countries.

On the other hand, there are two lines of credit granted by the exterior trade bank of the GDR to Banade and to the Argentine credit bank for $20 million and $10 million respectively.

BRIEFS

PUBLIC INVESTMENTS--The Economy Ministry's Public Information Secretariat revealed yesterday that the government is planning total investments of 33.13 billion pesos over the 1979-81 period to improve the social and economic infrastructure in all the provinces and Buenos Aires municipality. Investments will be made in sanitation, public health and education in the social sector; and in the economic sector in energy (hydroelectricity, nuclear plants and oil), communications facilities, transport (overland, river and maritime), Aerolineas Argentinas services, highway construction, and port facilities. [Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 12 Apr 79 pp 1, 20 PY]

BANZER SIGNS PACT WITH SEVERAL PARTIES, GROUPS

FY211819 Sucre Radio La Plata in Spanish 1630 GMT 21 Apr 79 FY

[Text] We present ourselves to the country with noble intentions, and none of us desires to occupy posts that are not suitable, said Gen Hugo Banzer Suarez yesterday when he signed a political agreement with several groups. The ceremony took place at the office of the Nationalist Democratic Action, and it was seen that those who had earlier supported Juan Pereda Asbun's candidacy have now appeared again.

The political pact was signed by Gaston Moreira for a sector of the Bolivian Socialist Falange, Ruben Julio for a sector of the National Revolutionary Movement, Jaime Humerez for the Social Christian Party, (Luis Jofre) for the Authentic Revolutionary Party, (German Vargas Martinez) for the Revolutionary Left, (Pascual Ramon) for the Peasant Confederation and (Clemente Alarcon) for the Peasant Class Grassroots Committee.

REGISTRATION CLOSES; ELECTORAL ALLIANCES ANNOUNCED

FY211349 La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 21 Apr 79 FY

[Excerpt] Eleven political alliances have registered to participate in the 1 July general elections. The National Electoral Court today closed the registration of fronts and parties that confirmed their intention of trying to win political, economic and social power in this country.

After a hectic day of discussions among political leaders, the following organizations made their participation official: Democratic and Popular Unity, which has nominated former President Hernan Siles Zuazo and Jaime Paz Zamora of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left as its candidates. Another front is the Popular Alliance for National Integration, with Gen Rene Bernal Escalante and Mario Gutierrez as candidates, the latter from the Bolivian Socialist Falange.

The alliance of the National Revolutionary Movement, Authentic Revolutionary Party, Christian Democratic Party, Revolutionary Front of the Left and the Tupac Katari Revolutionary Movement will present former President Victor Paz Estenssoro and PDC leader Luis Ossio as their candidates.

Other registered political organizations are the Bolivian Unity Party, the Tupac Katari Indian Movement and the Labor-Peasant Revolutionary Front, which have not yet announced their candidates. The First Socialist Party [Partido Socialista Uno] decided to go to the elections without allies and with the candidacy of Marcelo Quiroga Santa Cruz, the national party leader. Former President Hugo Banzer Suarez has also confirmed that he will participate in the electoral struggle. He has registered the Nationalist Democratic Alliance. Another leftist party that has also decided to participate without allies is the Labor Vanguard, which has nominated the construction workers leader Ricardo Catoyra and the mineworkers leader (Filemon Escobar) as candidates.

Lawyer Luis Adolfo Siles Salinas, the last consitutional president Bolivia had, will be the candidate of the alliance called March Toward Social Progress of the Left [Marcha de Avance Social de Izquierda] together with Guillermo Aponte Burela of the Socialist Party. At the last moment the Barrientist Revolutionary Alliance decided to submit the candidacy of Gen Rogelio Miranda (Valdivia).

FIGUEIREDO WARNS OF STIFFER ECONOMIC MEASURES

PY211930 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 21 Apr 79 PY

[Text] Commenting on the package of measures designed to fight inflation, General Figueiredo said: It was not a package but a box of cigars. Figueiredo warned, however, that if these measures proved ineffective, "I will decree a freightcar full of other measures in large-scale doses [em doses cavalares]."

Reactions to Anti-Inflation Measures

PY202156 Porto Alegre Radio Gaucha in Portuguese 1545 GMT 20 Apr 79 PY

[Text] Reaction to the anti-inflation package differs significantly among various sectors of the business world. The harshest criticism of the government measures is among store-owners. The chairman of the retail business association of Rio de Janeiro State (Joao Mola Fernandes), called the measures "timid". The chairman of the business association of Minas Gerais, (Edvaldo Gazzili), (?disapproves) of the 30-percent maximum increase in prices for installment sales. Both believe there could be serious unemployment in business and industry.

LABOR MINISTER, SAO PAULO OFFICIALS WARN STRIKERS

PY211959 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 21 Apr 79 PY

[Excerpt] The government does not intend to be condescending for very long with movements that infringe the law and damage the interests of the community, warned Labor Minister Murilo Macedo in a speech to graduates of a special course on labor medicine in Ribeirao Preto. He said the government cannot play down the strikes because they affect the entire economy.

Sao Paulo Agriculture Secretary Geraldo Diniz Junqueira has denied reports that employees of his secretariat are on strike. Diniz said in Bauru that he was in contact with Sao Paulo and that not all of the employees had actually joined the strike. He said that, following instructions from Governor Paulo Salim Maluf, he will in no way negotiate with the employees.

DEPUTY ASKS DISSOLUTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

PY211806 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 21 Apr 79 PY

[Text] Deputy Jose Costa, MDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement] Alagoas State, has proposed dissolution of the Human Rights Defense Council [CDDPH]. He based his proposal on the fact that the CDDPH has never taken any action to defend human rights in more than 15 years of existence. Costa added that in view of its absolute ineffectiveness, the CDDPH has become an affront to the national conscience, not to mention the fact that its operation will cost 420 million cruzeiros this year, as allocated in the Justice Ministry's budget.

FIVE MORE PERSONS KILLED BY 'DEATH SQUAD'

PY201537 Paris AFP in Spanish 1433 GMT 20 Apr 79 PY

[Excerpt] Rio de Janeiro, 20 Apr (AFP)--The bullet-riddled bodies of five victims of the "death squad" have been found in the past 24 hours in Rio de Janeiro suburbs. A report in the local press says that with these five new victims, three men, one woman and one child, the number of persons slain by the group during the past 10 days has reached 22. The new victims were still not identified, but all bear marks of torture inflicted before death.

CUBILLOS CALLS LETELIER CASE 'MAJOR OBSTACLE' WITH U.S.

PY211540 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 21 Apr 79 PY

[Text] Chilean Foreign Minister Hernan Cubillos broke the silence he had been maintaining on the Letelier case, stating that this case continues to be the major obstacle in relations between Washington and Santiago. There are some who have interpreted this statement as a warning by the Chilean military government to the United States to stop the investigations into the murder of the socialist foreign minister in 1976. It is also considered as an indication that the Pinochet government will turn down the request for extradition of the Chilean military officers involved in the case.

HODDING CARTER EXTRADITION STATEMENT 'UNACCEPTABLE'

PY202153 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1944 GMT 20 Apr 79 PY

[Excerpts] Santiago, Chile, 20 Apr (LATIN)--The newspaper EL MERCURIO today termed "unacceptable" the statement attributed to U.S. Spokesman Hodding Carter in questioning the recommendation of the Chilean attorney general to the effect that the extradition request for three Chilean officers in connection with the murder of former Foreign Minister Orlando Letelier be rejected. The newspaper in an editorial analyzed the statement by the U.S. State Department official, who said he expects "the persons involved in the case to be brought to trial."

EL MERCURIO noted that "the unacceptable reaction of the U.S. official to the recommendation of Attorney General Gustavo Chamorro deserves the strongest repudiation by Chile in the face of international public opinion, because the reaction demonstrates that the United States lacks understanding of the extradition treaty."

GROUP OF 10 PLANNING MASS MAY DAY DEMONSTRATION

PY201446 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2258 GMT 19 Apr 79 PY

[Excerpt] Santiago, Chile, 19 Apr (LATIN)--Chilean labor leaders have invited the leaders of 45 powerful foreign labor unions to visit the country in order to celebrate "Labor Day" here with a massive demonstration on 1 May, according to its organizers. The leaders of the port workers and chairman of the so-called "Group of 10"--which includes leaders of several national organizations, Eduardo Rios, asserted that similar celebrations are being organized in the country's most important cities, such as Antofagasta, Valparaiso and Concepcion. He explained at a press conference that the objective of these "artistic-cultural" ceremonies "which will have only one speaker," is to "allow all Chilean workers to celebrate in unity the ideal of freedom, justice, peace and Labor Day."

Seven foreign organizations have confirmed they will attend. They are the World Labor Federation, the Latin American Workers Central, the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, the Regional Inter-American Labor Organization, the British Trade Union Congress, the CGIL-CISL-UTIL of Italy and the Workers Union of Spain. The government has organized a Labor Day ceremony at Government House and invited all the unions based in the capital.

Nevertheless, the government has not authorized other celebrations such as demonstrations or meetings, even though the labor minister, Jose Pinera, recently indicated that workers could celebrate with free meetings at their respective headquarters.

DEFENSE MINISTER REJECTS POSSIBILITY OF MILITARY COUP

PA221939 Paris AFP in Spanish 1810 GMT 22 Apr 79 PA

[Text] Bogota, 22 Apr (AFP)--Colombian Defense Minister Gen Luis Carlos Camacho Leyva today rejected an international investigation on alleged torture in Colombia and dismissed the possibility of a military coup in the country. In a statement to the RCN radio network, the minister reiterated that it was presently impossible to lift the controversial security statute. He added: On the contrary, it will be strengthened "because delinquency remains unchecked." On the other hand General Camacho Leyva announced the adoption of new government measures to fight subversive groups.

Once more rejecting reports of torture, the military chief said the armed forces will not agree to an international investigation of the matter because "we are a nation that has come of age and possess legal instruments to prevent abuse." In regard to statements by former ministers about growing military influence in President Julio Cesar Turbay's regime, the general said: "In my view there is no possibility of a dictatorship in Colombia simply because Colombia has the luxury of professional armed forces with no political ambitions." The defense minister also denied that Colombia has embarked upon an arms race.

According to General Camacho, there is a "growing" effort to speed up mechanisms to stabilize public order in the country despite recent subversive actions such as the occupation of a newspaper in Cali in western Colombia.

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES NEW ECONOMIC POLICY TRENDS

PA210441 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Apr 79 PA

[Text] In the capital of Santander, the National Government announced a completely new trend in national economic policies. The president presented the final proposals of what will be the Turbay Ayala government economic plan. According to reports released at noon today, the plan includes important reforms to the National Government spending system.

It was also agreed, after lengthy debates by the Council of Ministers and the governors' summit, that five decrees will be approved which will have a special effect throughout the entire national administrative system. On the one hand, important functions of the administration have been delegated to the governors. On the other, the government has granted powers to the departmental administrations so they can collect a considerable share of the taxes. The National Government also considered it important to define in Bucaramanga the new outlines of the government's social, economic and cultural policies.

FARC GUERRILLAS EXECUTE FOUR PERSONS IN ANTIOQUIA

PA200440 Paris AFP in Spanish 0208 GMT 20 Apr 79 PA

[Text] Bogota, 19 Apr (AFP)--Military authorities have reported that four persons were executed today by guerrillas in north-central Colombia.

In two simultaneous actions, commandos of the pro-Soviet Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) shot to death two fishermen and two farmers near Puerto Nare, Antioquia Department, some 320 km from Bogota. The four victims were apparently charged with being informers for the Army, which has been fighting the insurgent groups operating in the mid-Magdalena Region for several years.

FARC LEADER TAKES ASYLUM IN COSTA RICAN EMBASSY

PA212310 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 17 Apr 79 p 1 PA

[Text] A leader of the self-styled Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) yesterday asked for political asylum in the Costa Rican embassy. He told the Costa Rican charge d'affaires that his life was in danger since he was being intensely sought by military authorities. The man was identified as German Ramirez Orozco. The exact time he took asylum yesterday was not released.

On their part, the military authorities reported they were not looking for Ramirez Orozco but the mere fact that he had sought asylum indicated that he was probably linked to guerrilla groups, particularly FARC, which has had hard blows dealt to its structure during the past 2 weeks. It has been reported that Ramirez Orozco was the leader of one of the cells of the 8th front of FARC, which operates in Cundinamarca Department, particularly in the rural areas.

PRESIDENT ATTENDS LIBERAL NEWSPAPER INAUGURATION

PA201220 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Apr 79 PA

[Javier Ayala report from Radio Super in Medellin]

[Text] The inauguration of the newspaper EL MUNDO here in the capital of Antioquia on 19 April indicated that the date will be celebrated by Colombian democrats as a date to remember, the day of the inauguration of a liberal newspaper. That statement was made by President Turbay in referring to what is currently going on in the country.

The president said that on one hand there are columnists and pamphleteers who side with subversion in trying to portray him as a tyrant, however, President Turbay said. "Accusations of tyranny in my term can be rejected for several reasons. For one thing, a human rights forum was held during which the government was openly criticized. Also two newspapers have been founded under the incumbent administration. That is to say, the entire Colombian press apparatus has been strengthened."

Speeches delivered during the inauguration of the modern newspaper EL MUNDO contained an especially dramatic note regarding the existence of subversive elements in Colombia. EL TIEMPO director Hernando Santos Castillo openly attacked and rejected columnists who are currently criticizing the administration due to the actions of certain military forces with regard to investigations into the activities of subversive groups. Hernando Santos Castillo specifically noted the need for the country to be aware that some newsmen and pamphleteers, as he put it, are trying to show that they are right when it is the papers which are defending the administration and the institutions which are currently showing the truth of the Colombian situation.

Hernando Santos harshly opposed those who have attacked military forces for the arrest of poet Luis Vidales. President Turbay mentioned the same case, saying that a Bogota newspaper recently reported that, according to poet Vidales, there are other powers above and beyond President Turbay. In response to that statement, the chief of state said the full exercise of democracy has thus been demonstrated in Colombia if we bear in mind that the chief executive is not completely aware of, nor can he manipulate, the actions of the judicial branch.

During the inauguration of the new Antioquia liberal newspaper, it was also reported that President Turbay repeatedly stated that he guarantees freedom of the press in the country.

HERRERA DISCUSSES IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH COLOMBIA

PA212350 Paris AFP in Spanish 2259 GMT 21 Apr 79 PA

[Excerpt] Caracas, 21 Apr (AFP)--Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins said here today that Colombia and Venezuela "can, should and will overcome" their recent disagreements through bilateral talks.

He added that he has informed Colombian President Julio Cesar Turbay about his desire to "take advantage of the time" they will have available during the Cartagena Conference in order to discuss the disagreements between the two countries. The Cartagena Conference will be attended by the presidents of the Andean area on 26 May. Those disagreements stem from a lengthy border "dispute" over the waters of the Gulf of Venezuela and the charges in Colombia about an alleged "slaughter" of Colombians in western Venezuela.

ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES ON OFFICIAL VISIT

PA230327 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2233 GMT 22 Apr 79 PA

[Text] Caracas, 22 Apr (LATIN)--Italian Foreign Minister Arnaldo Folani arrived here early this morning on an official 3-day visit during which he will meet with President Luis Herrera Campins.

Forlani was received at Maiquetia International Airport, located 30 km north of here, by Venezuelan Foreign Minister Jose Alberto Zambrano and Italian Ambassador to Venezuela Guglielmo Fochi. Herrera Campins will decorate Forlani with the Order of the Liberator in the degree of Grand Cordon.

Forlani is also scheduled to meet with officials from the Development and Energy and Mines Ministries, the Presidency's Planning Office and the Foreign Trade Institute.

SUBSTANTIAL OIL OUTPUT RISE IN PAST YEAR REPORTED

PA211451 Paris AFP in Spanish 1404 GMT 21 Apr 79 PA

[Text] Caracas, 21 Apr, (AFP)--The Venezuelan Energy and Mines Ministry announced here today that Venezuelan's daily average petroleum production for the year starting on 17 April 1978 increased by 25.10 percent. The ministry indicated, that, before 17 April 1978, average daily production was 1,879,177 barrels as compared with the present 2,350,993, which is a rough increase of 471,816 barrels per day.

The ceiling set for national production was 2.2 million barrels daily for reasons of conservation and price protection. The present rate, which is higher than that limit, is the result of excessive demand on the international market, the ministry revealed. Venezuela is the chief hydrocarbon supplier of the United States, fourth largest exporter in the world and fifth in production.

BRIEFS

ADDITIONAL PETROLEUM INCOME--Venezuela will receive 23 billion bolivares from the increase in petroleum prices this year, Mines and Energy Minister Humberto Calderon Barti said. He added that last year petroleum exports produced a total of 50 billion bolivares. [Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish 2100 GMT 20 Apr 79 PA]

BOLIVIAN SEA OUTLET DISCUSSED WITH CHILEAN AMBASSADOR

PA210141 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 20 Apr 79 PA

[Text] Chilean Ambassador to Panama Gen Fernando Paredes Pizarro visited President Aristides Royo to present his government's position on Bolivia's landlocked situation.

The Chilean ambassador told President Royo that his country wants to reach an agreement with the Bolivian Government to solve the problem. He took advantage of the visit to show Royo a map on which a zone had been marked which could be used for Bolivia's outlet to the sea.

On the occasion, Royo told Paredes that Panama supports an outlet to the sea for Bolivia and tnat it favors the solution of the dispute by peaceful means.

CIVIL AERONAUTICS OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS IMPLEMENTATION

PA201415 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 19 Apr 79 PA

[Text] The Civil Aeronautics Office has announced that three officials of that agency will go to the United States to implement last January's agreement on the canal treaty in connection with the operation and maintenance of Canal Zone airspace. The delegation, composed of Ricardo Bermudez, Diego Hurtado and Osvaldo Flores, will meet for several days with top officials of the U.S. Federal Aviation Agency in Atlanta, Georgia. Panamanian civil aeronautics officials will evaluate developments since the signing of the agreement to the present and discuss the new stages to be unfolded during 1980.

PRESIDENT REPORTEDLY TO VISIT U.S. TO DISCUSS TREATY

PA201938 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 20 Apr 79 PA

["Sobre el Terreno" program with Rafael Nunez Zarzavilla and Demetrio Romero Wong]

[Excerpts] [Nunez] We have here an EFE news dispatch issued in Washington last night which mentions a possible upcoming visit by President Royo to the United States. The dispatch states: Washington, 19 April, EFE--The upcoming visit to Washington by Panamanian President Aristides Royo will coincide with the final phase of legislation to implement the Panama Canal treaties according to the U.S. press today. It added that the president plans to arrive in this capital on 9 May, the date on which he will leave Paris for an unofficial 2-day visit to the United States.

Royo will meet with President Carter, with whom he will presumably talk about the opposition encountered in the U.S. House of Representatives which is preparing the future legal framework for that interoceanic waterway.

The same sources echoed White House concern over the possibility that the date set for the treaties to go into effect may pass before the congressmen conclude their efforts. That is the end of the ACAN-EFE report.

[Romero] The congressmen base their opposition on the enormous cost which the restitution will involve for the U.S. taxpayer. They also speak of alleged errors committed by the State Department in its preliminary evaluation of the costs involved in transfering the Canal Zone to Panama.

[Nunez] Yes, but I insist that these are just pretexts to continue exerting pressure to see if our side will make some concessions and to permanently fix--that is my personal opinion--to permanently fix our revolutionary process within those structures of traditional dependence which they have maintained here.

We think that the mistake being made by those here and in the United States who are promoting those schemes is that they are forgetting that our people, particularly the youth, have maintained that the struggle did not end with the signing of the treaties, nor will it end with their implementation. It is a permanent struggle--on which will continue until we achieve full recovery of our territory and exercise full jurisdiction in that part of our country.

COMMITTEE CRITICIZES U.S. MILITARY MANEUVERS IN PANAMA

PA201923 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 20 Apr 79 pp 14, 29 PA

[Communique of Panamanian Committee of Solidarity with Nicaraguan People--date not given]

[Excerpts] The CPSPN is concerned over the development of the so-called "Operation Black Fury II," which is being carried out by the U.S. Southern Command headquartered in the Panamanian territory of the Canal Zone. The operation is particularly suspicious because everybody knows that, claiming the Canal defense as a pretext, the operation is being carried out exactly at the same time that the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) and other Nicaraguan sectors are making a final effort to eradicate the government headed by Anastasio Somoza.

The Panamanian people, who can best bear witness to the way a foreign territory has been used to attack the fraternal people of this continent, strenuously reiterate their repudiation of every instance of military intervention by the U.S. armed forces in Nicaraguan internal affairs. We also wish to alert the peoples of Panama, Central America and the world to the airlift which--under the cover of "humanitarian assistance"--has been established by the U.S. Southern Command with Honduras, specifically through Puerto Lempira, near the Nicaraguan border.

In addition, we are deeply alarmed at the Israeli Government's decision to continue delivering arms and war materiel to Somoza's army. We, the Panamanians who are struggling for respect for the right of self-determination of peoples and who firmly condemn the genocide that Nazi facism perpetrated against the Jewish people, cannot overlook the fact that the Israeli Government has been playing a sad role in delivering arms to Somoza. We invite the large Jewish community in Panama, because we know it repudiates its government's attitude, to express its solidarity with the Nicaraguan people and to reject Israel's belligerent attitude.

BRIEFS

DOMINICAN SOCIAL SECURITY VISITOR--Dr (Fran de Souza Flori), director general of the Dominican Social Security Institute, arrived in Panama today. He met with Dr Abraham Saied, director general of the Panamanian Social Security Institute, and Jaime Trujillo, deputy director general. He also held a lengthy meeting with the members of the Technical Council of the Social Security Institute to discuss the development and growth of the Panamanian Institute. [Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 19 Apr 79 PA]

COSTA RICA

PROPOSAL FOR OIL IMPORTING BODY GAINS FORCE

PA211609 Paris AFP in Spanish 1028 GMT 21 Apr 79 PA

[By Gilberto Lopes]

[Text] San Jose, 21 Apr (AFP)--Costa Rican President Rodrigo Carazo's proposal for the creation of an organization that groups the petroleum-importing countries is rapidly gaining support after his short visits to three Central American countries. Costa Rica's difficult economic situation, which has been made worse by the recent oil price increases, has led Carazo to make this suggestion, which constitutes a major initiative in Costa Rica's foreign policy.

What at first was mere concern shared by the other countries in the region over obtaining fuel at acceptable prices, is taking the shape of an idea for an organization of petroleum-importing countries. It is not a matter of opposing the producing countries' right to obtain a just price for their crude oil, Carazo recently affirmed. What we want, he said, is to make those countries aware of the third world nations' difficult economic situation in the face of abusive price increases brought about by the international oil market situation.

This concern was first expressed in the joint communique issued by President Carazo and his Panamanian counterpart, Aristides Royo, after their meeting in Sixaola, located on the border, on 3 March. There the two presidents expressed their concern over the "energy problem resulting from petroleum and its derivatives" and agreed to make joint efforts in order to obtain hydrocarbons at acceptable prices.

A few days later, while in Venezuela to attend the inaugural ceremonies, the presidents of Costa Rica, Colombia, the Dominican Republic and Bolivia and the president of Spain reiterated their concern over the international energy situation in a joint document signed in Caracas on 12 March. In the document, the five statesmen agreed to carry out consultations in order to evaluate the incidence of energy factors in the development processes of their respective nations and to coordinate their policies at various international forums in order to confront this problem.

The fuel price increase, they affirmed then, "is resulting in hard-to-handle internal situations," which require coordinated and united actions in order to avoid new and more serious disruptions in each nation's economy. On that occasion Dominican President Antonio Guzman invited the other chiefs of state to visit Santo Domingo later this year so that all five of them might continue studying the problems analyzed in the Caracas declaration.

In this manner an idea was gaining force, whose objective, according to President Carazo, was to provide those underdeveloped countries which do not produce oil with an instrument of pressure to confront a problem that threatens to foil all of the third world's development efforts. The initiative had repercussions at the recent OPEC meeting held in Geneva on 26 and 27 March. Venezuelan Energy and Mines Minister Humberto Calderon sent President Carazo a letter which included an OPEC press communique expressing special concern over the prices that the oil and marketing companies charge to the developing countries.

In view of the current international oil market situation, during his recent tour of Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador on 17 and 18 April, Carazo obtained the support of those nations for the creation of a united Central American countries' front. The possibility of holding a Latin American ministerial meeting in July in San Jose is now being considered. This might reportedly constitute the embryo of the organization of petroleum-importing countries.

SERIOUS TRADE DEFICIT FACED DUE TO NICARAGUA

PA211759 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1630 GMT 21 Apr 79 PA

[Excerpt] Costa Rica's trade deficit is aggravated by Nicaragua. Sources in the Central Bank report that since September 1978, Costa Rica has been losing ground in trade with the rest of the Central American countries. According to statistics, Costa Rica, which, since the establishment of the Common Market, had very balanced commercial relations with Nicaragua, has now entered into an alarming deficit with that country.

The situation for Costa Rica with Nicaragua is so difficult that economists predict the deficit could reach $50 million by the end of the year. This is caused by the recent devaluation of Nicaragua's currency. According to information provided by the Costa Rican Central Bank, this nation's trade deficit with Nicaragua in September 1978 was $16 million. At the present, it may be $32 million and by the end of the year around $50 million.

NICARAGUA OUT OF CENTRAL AMERICAN COMMON MARKET

PA211354 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1100 GMT 21 Apr 79 PA

[Text] Costa Rican Economy Minister Fernando Altmann Ortiz has said that Costa Rica feels that Nicaragua left the Central American Common Market about 6 months ago. Nicaragua left the market from the minute it established a one-way policy of selling raw material and not buying finished products. As for Costa Rican exporters, they also feel that Nicaragua is out of the Common Market, he said, because (?it is not) importing.

EL SALVADOR

CENTRAL AMERICAN TRANSPORTERS DISCUSS CANAL TOLLS

PA210225 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 17 Apr 79 pp 3, 24 PA

[Text] National and other Central American maritime transportation users are seriously worried about an increase in Panama Canal tolls. Jose Eduardo Palomo Castillo, chairman of the Association of Maritime Transportation Users [Association de Usuarios del Transporte Maritimo--AUSTRAMA] of El Salvador and President of the Users Association of the Central American Isthumus [as published], said that the increase will range from 20 to 50 percent as a consequence of unforeseen costs for the transfer of the Canal to the Republic of Panama, costs which are higher than the U.S. negotiators had initially considered.

The effects that the toll increase would have on the freight costs to and from Central America are still unknown and, of course, the effect that they would have on our economies is also unknown, he reported, since, up to now, no studies have been made on that because there are no bodies in the area for the investigation and analysis of freight costs that could conduct those studies. He stated, however, that he has addressed the Transmar Project [not further identified] director, headquartered in this city, so that its freight cost analysts would undertake a study of the problem.

U.S. maritime transportation users who will be affected by the measure have reported that such increases will force them to use other means to transport their goods.

Not to underestimate the effect of the toll increase on the freight costs of products of interest to the area, both for import and export purposes, he noted the users' concern over the effect that they would have on the cost of transporting oil whose price, as is known, has been increased by OPEC again and will be further increased. Therefore, he thinks that the Central American countries which, as El Salvador, import oil which has to go through the Panama Canal should find alternatives to supply themselves with oil that does not have to pass through the Panama Canal.

Another important problem to consider is the distortion of traffic that the aforementioned increases might cause in the area by making some ports more competitive than others, depending on whether the freight to or from them has to go through the Canal or not. The relatively competitive situation of some ports with regard to others might lead to a massive detour of cargo from one coast to the other. It would be important to analyze the effects of that in order to anticipate negative effects, such as port congestion due to higher volumes of cargo to process, which would lead to surcharges on the freight costs and other inconveniences resulting from surpassing the ports' operational capability.

Finally, he said that the dry canal from Acajutla to Santo Tomas de Castilla in Guatemala should materialize as soon as possible as a means of cooperation and interdependence between two complementary countries in order to fill a current need and as a future imperative since this route might turn out to be an alternative to the [Panama] Canal.

GUATEMALA

OFFICIAL DISCUSSES RELATIONS WITH COSTA RICA

PA201359 Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 1230 GMT 20 Apr 79 PA

[Text] Regarding statements by a so-called Committee of Solidarity, which asked that Guatemala break diplomatic relations with Costa Rica, Maj Rolando Archila Marroquin, acting secretary of public relations of the presidency, has emphasized that the committee is officially nonexistent because it has not been approved by the government of the republic in accordance with our laws.

Major Archila said that diplomatic relations between Guatemala and Costa Rica are cordial. Indicative of that is Costa Rican President Rodrigo Carazo's visit to our country. Archila added that any break in diplomatic relations with any country must be decided by the executive branch but there must be a strong reason to do so. In this case, it is felt that there is no valid reason to adopt such a decision.

HONDURAS

FINANCE MINISTER FAVORS OIL IMPORTING ORGANIZATION

PA211550 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1449 GMT 21 Apr 79 PA

[Text] Tegucigulpa, 21 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--Honduran Finance Minister Valentin Mendoza said here today that his ministry agrees "in principle" to participating in an organization of petroleum-importing countries.

The creation of such an organization was proposed by Costa Rican President Rodrigo Carazo Odio during his recent visit to Honduras. The organization's objective would be to secure just and equitable treatment from the oil-exporting countries.

Mendoza said that "high oil prices block the right that poor importing countries such as ours have to develop." Mendoza was optimistic about the benefits that the organization could secure once it is created. He said: "Let us hope that this organization would enable the underdeveloped countries to receive special treatment in the energy field."

NEWSMEN PROTEST CLOSURE OF RADIO PROGRESO

PA221826 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1626 GMT 22 Apr 79 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 22 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--The Honduran Press Association (APH) in a general assembly held yesterday protested the closure of Radio Progreso over 1 month ago by the Honduran Telecommunications Enterprise (HONDUTEL). Newsmen decided that an international complaint should be filed since the closing of the station is a violation of the International Human Rights Charter and the American Charter of Human Rights signed and ratified by the military government. They also decided to urge the Association of Publicity Organizations and Radio Broadcasters of Honduras to join the efforts of the Press Association to get HONDUTEL to order the reopening of the station.

Meanwhile, the Press Association made a contribution to cover half of the salaries of several workers of the closed station. Radio Progreso is managed by priests of the Jesuit order and is directed by a Spanish priest, Jose Maria Tojeira.

According to HONDUTEL, the station was closed because it had broadcast programs which incited the peasants and encouraged class struggle in violation of HONDUTEL's regulations and the constitution. According to the constitution, only Hondurans by birth can hold leadership posts in communication media, but the Honduran constitution also says that no communications medium which threatens freedom of thought or commits a felony can be closed or confiscated [as received].

For this reason the newsmen said in their pronouncement that HONDUTEL has violated not only the law on expression of thought, the freedom of expression, but also the constitution in closing a work center in a country in which there are 175,000 unemployed.

NICARAGUA

SOMOZA SAYS U.S. REDUCING RESIGNATION PRESSURE

PA220110 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 21 Apr 79 PA

[Text] Nicaraguan President Anastasio Somoza said in Managua today that Washington is reducing its pressures for his resignation following the new victory of the National Guard over the Sandinist National Liberation Front guerrillas in Esteli. During a press interview at his bombproof offices, known as "the bunker," the 53-year-old president indicated that the National Guard will eventually eradicate the guerrillas. He once again reiterated that he will not leave power until his term concludes in 1981.

Somoza told the press in Managua that after he turns over the government to his successor, he will withdraw from public life to dedicate himself to his family and his businesses and will make a trip around the world. A source close to Somoza said that the president is also thinking of writing his memoirs and that he will be at the service of his successors to advise them on state affairs.

OFFICIAL SOURCES ON CORDOBA DEVALUATION

PA210418 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Apr 79 PA

[Text] Managua--Official Nicaraguan sources described the statements made by Costa Rican President Rodrigo Carazo Odio regarding the tacit withdrawal of Nicaragua from the Central American Common Market in the wake of the cordoba devaluation as inconsistent. Carazo's statements regarding the fact that Nicaragua should have consulted the other governments of the isthmus before devaluating the cordoba is incorrect.

Carlos Moises Baltodano, vice minister of economic integration, said that no integrationist legislation has been violated. Mauricio Vaca Munoz, a Central Bank official, said that the agreement which created the Central American Monetary Council does not call for prior consultation in this case but it does call for the notification of the pertinent organizations once a country has decided to change the value of its currency with regard to the U.S. dollar. The cordoba devaluation decreed by Nicaragua changed the value of the cordoba from 7 cordobas to $1 to 9 and 10 cordobas to $1 for imports and exports, as the case may be.

The regional monetary agreement established in Article 19 that whenever a country changes the value of its currency, the signatory Central Bank must immediately notify the other signatory central banks, the Executive Secretariat of the Central American Monetary Council and the Central American clearing house so that the appropriate adjustments may be made. These stipulations have been carried out in accordance with the same monetary agreement, Vaca Munoz noted. He added that the Nicaraguan government guarantees the convertibility of cash in transit [remesas en transito] and compensatory securities [valores compensables] according to the aforementioned parity.

Denial of New Devaluation

PA211221 Paris AFP in Spanish 0114 GMT 21 Apr 79 PA [by Harcio Ruiz]

[Excerpt] Managua, 20 Apr (AFP)--The Nicaraguan Government today officially denied the rumors that new devaluation of the cordoba is about to take place.

Meanwhile, the country's financial, industrial and working groups were getting ready to carry out joint protests against the effects of the devaluation which took effect on 7 April. Government officials, apparently fearing massive popular protests because of the 43-percent increase inprices since 7 April, announced the immediate control on the prices of staples. Official prices will be announced next week.

Price and Minimal Wage Increases

PA230334 Paris AFP in Spanish 2305 GMT 22 Apr 79 PA

[Excerpt] Managua, 22 Apr (AFP)--President Anastasio Somoza's government announced today a 40 percent increase in the price of a number of staples, gasoline, and public transportation fares. This increase, along with a price freeze and a minimal wage increase, seeks to prevent any speculation with the prices of staples in the wake of the 70 percent devaluation of the national currency, the cordoba, implemented on 6 April, the Nicaraguan economy minister has explained. But according to the observers, of the new prices, which affect mostly, rice, oil and other food products, are very high.

The increase, they feel, might elicit a new wave of violence in this country, which today enjoyed its first day of relative peace since the Sandinist National Liberation Front's (FSLN) Holy Week offensive. The price increase will deal a harsh blow to a people already afflicted with an unemployment rate that exceeds 40 percent in a country where the minimal wage amounts to only $100 per month.

Still it should be pointed out that the government is trying to attenuate these measures by simultaneously announcing a 25 percent increase in minimal wages as well as a reform of the social security system. Under the reform, social security benefits will be extended to extended to include agricultural workers and domestic employees, but those advantages will benefit only those who are employed.

ANTICOMMUNIST YOUTH CONGRESS CONCLUDES

PA222001 Paris AFP in Spanish 1819 GMT 22 Apr 79 PA

[By AFP special correspondent Paul Rutler]

[Excerpt] Managua, 22 Apr (AFP)--The Ninth Congress of the World Anticommunist Youth League concluded here yesterday with a unanimous declaration of "full support for President Anastasio Somoza, the National Guard and the people of Nicaragua." The Congress, which included representatives of 58 countries and elected Somozist youth leader Chester Escobar as president of the League, accused Costa Rican President Rodrigo Carazo of interfering in Nicaragua's internal affairs.

The former chiefs of state of Panama and Venezuela, Omar Torrijos and Carlos Andres Perez, respectively, were similarly accused with the additional charge of supporting communist subversion against Somoza being leveled. The Congress reaffirmed its support for the governments of Chile and Argentian.

LATEST VIOLENCE TOLL SET AT FIVE DEAD

PA201844 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1824 GMT 20 Apr 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 20 Apr (LATIN)--Five persons have been killed in various clashes in the past few hours in Managua and environs as the Sandinist National Liberation Movement continues to harass government forces. Infantry Lt Raul Dona Vega was killed in Nicarao District, southeast of Managua, where a gasoline station was set on fire.

Guard sources indicated that in San Judas District, southeast of the capital, a 19-year-old youth identified as Fernando Rouas Avendana was shot by alleged Sandinist guerrillas. In Villa Progreso, residents said two young men had been killed in a clash with [words indistinct]. The sources said a body with bullet wounds was found early this morning in the far southeastern section of Managua.

Deaths in Masay, Leon, Managua

PA220132 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Apr 79 PA

[Text] Managua--Reports received here today revealed the death of seven persons in Masaya, one in Leon and another here in Managua, in addition to an attack on a police station, as violence continues to flare up in Nicaragua.

The daily LA PRENSA, claiming that the northern city of Masaya is ruled by the law of the jungle and terror, reports the killing by a National Guard patrol of youths Miguel Vences and Alberto Buitrago in the Indian village of Monimbo. The two youths had been dragged from a taxi by members of the patrol

MACHADO VENTURA SPEAKS AT PLAYA GIRON ANNIVERSARY EVENT

Description of Event

FL200127 [Editorial Report FL] Havana Domestic Service at 0030 GMT on 20 April begins live coverage of the national ceremony comemorating the 18th anniversary of the victory at Playa Giron held at the Central Organization of Cuban Workers [CTC] Lazaro Pena Auditorium in Havana City.

Color coverage opens with the cameras panning the audience. The curtain on the stage is then raised. At 0031 GMT the national anthem is played, and the camera pans the dais. This is followed by television announcer Manolo Ortega, who goes to the podium to set the scene of the commemoration. He says that Armando Hart Davalos and Jose Ramon Machado Ventura, PCC Politburo members, are presiding over the event. Others present at the ceremony include other vice ministers, leaders of labor and mass organizations, members of the diplomatic corps and heroes and relatives of combatants of Playa Giron. Machado Ventura is introduced at 0034 GMT and begins his remarks 1 minute later, reading from a prepared text. On the red backdrop is the slogan in white letters, "18th anniversary of the victory at Playa Giron." The podium and Cuban flag appear to the viewer's left on the stage.

Machado Ventura speaks for 47 minutes, in which he recounts the events at Playa Giron, the impact of the Cuban victory throughout the world, how it relates to building socialism in Cuba today and how it pointed out the crisis faced by capitalism that is continuing today. Machado Ventura ends his remarks at 0117 GMT and television coverage ends immediately.

Machado Ventura Speech

FL200310 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0030 GMT 20 Apr 79 FL

[Speech by Jose Ramon Machado Ventura, member of the PCC Politburo and Council of State, commemorating the 18th anniversary of the victory of Playa Giron at ceremony at the Central Organization of Cuban Workers Lazaro Pena Auditorium in Havana City--live]

[Text] Comrade Armando Hart, member of the PCC Politubro; comrade members of the Central Committee; representatives of the diplomatic corps; comrades on the dais; combatants of Giron; comrades: Once again the glorious date marking the triumph of Playa Giron prompts us to give homage and thanks to those who directly took part in the episode of our history and figured in the first great defeat of Yankee imperialism in Latin America. The rebel army, militiamen, police, artillery men, tankers, pilots and people in uniform showed the world in that historic April the irreversible nature of a true revolution, achieved at a cost of more than 20,000 lives and almost 100 years of liberation struggle. To speak of the victory at Giron 18 years later is to evoke each one of those unforgettable moments in which, as never before, we felt the pride of belonging to a people such as ours. It is to relive moments of indescribable emotion and courage in the frontlines with Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, who personally took charge of the military operations and whose powerful example [applause], whose powerful example was a peerless encouragement for our inexperienced combatants of that time.

Those young soliders of the fatherland had very little experience, just two years after the revolutionary triumph in 1959, but they had abundant courage and optimism in facing an enemy well equipped, supported and financed by Yankee imperialism.

Those intrepid defenders of our achievements were the same ones who a few hours earlier at the tomb of those who fell in the barbaric bombing that was a prelude to the invasion raised their rifles and voices and swore to defend this socialist revolution by the humble, of the humble and for the humble. With this determination to win, this pledge made to the heroes and martyrs of the fatherland, this indomitable Mambisa tradition that was renewed once again after almost a century of emancipating struggle, they became invincible to the powerful weaponry of the mercenary army.

In amazement imperialism witnessed the crumbling of their plans to establish a beachhead on the national territory and set up a provisional government, which would have allowed it to once again freely intervene in our fatherland. They were witness to their own failure on the beaches of Giron, and their neocolonial and expansionist appetites were unsatisfied on the Island of Cuba. But the Cuban people were not astounded by their victory, nor were they surprised by the sudden surrender of the invaders just 72 hours after the battle started.

The Cuban Revolution has its roots deep in the past century, when at La Demajagua the reverberating call was heard whose unceasing echo has always been answered by our people. For 100 years we have paid with interest the price demanded by liberty and independence. Over 100 years we have learned the lesson of Cespedes, Agramonte, Gomez and Maceo; over 100 years we have forged our revolutionary and anti-imperialist spirit in the brilliant furnace of Marti's thoughts. Therefore, we were not astounded by the victory on 19 April 1961, because our people have written their history with great sacrifice, marked by uncountable heroic deeds that speak for themselves of the dignity, decorum and limitless bravery of our land, paid for with the generous blood of many of its finest sons. The men of Playa Giron were struggling in defense of the ideas of 1868 and 1895, in defense of the ideas raised on high at Moncada and the Sierra, in defense of the Marxist-Leninist ideas that from that time have marked the triumphant path of the revolution.

The Cuban people had to walk a long distance from the beginning of their struggles to the moment of proclaiming their unrenouncable decision to build a socialist society. It was an arduous path marked by victories and defeats, where it was necessary to energetically face the detractors of the revolution who absurdly tried to break its progress and halt the unrestrainable adnance of history. But all efforts to conspire against the guiding laws of social development [have failed]. A true revolution, no matter what its immediate character or objective is, has always run into obstacles imposed by the most reactionary sectors in each historical period; but never have revolutionary ideas that have been firmly based on the masses been completely defeated. Over the long course of history, revolutionary ideas have been responsible for redeeming the thinking of each era, distilling the sagest teachings and rejuvenating contemporary thought with the stimulating enccouragement of those who have taken the immortal banner of revolution in their hands.

The history of our people is convincing proof of this irrefutable truth. In the first stage of our emancipation we had to confront numerous detractors and overcome innumerable obstacles, which finally led to signing the disgraceful Sanjon Pact. The campaign that was reinitiated in 1895 saw its triumph frustrated by North American intervention; and during the pseudorepublic the people once again suffered reverses, leading to the failure of the revolution of 1930. But after each one of these painful reverses, the revolutionary principles of our people arose more firmly and profoundly; and men of exceeding decorum were wounded by afrontry, betrayal and defeat. There was a Sanjon Pact, which was an outrage to the fallen of the great war; but there was also an Antonio Maceo and a virile Baragua protest, a Jose Marti and a Revolutionary Cuban Party.

There was a North American intervention which aborted the triumph of our independence struggle, but there was also a Balino and a Mella and a Marxist-Leninist party that gathered the best and most radical people in its ranks to begin disseminating the precious ideological inheritance of Marx, Engels and Lenin among the masses. There was a frustrated revolution in the decade of the 1930's, but there was also a centennial generation and a 26 July, which took charge as demanded by the heroes and martyrs of the fatherland to definitively complete the work of the revolution that began on a 10 October.

On 1 January 1959, the Cuban people finally attained the freedom they had yearned for and gained the inalienable sovereign right to undertake the difficult path that led to the full accomplishment of their revolutionary effort. For the first time, the dearest desires of the people were being fulfilled, as had been outlined in Fidel's historic speech at the trial of those who assaulted the Moncada barracks--"history will absolve me"--and the people's revolutionary program which at the time was the highest aspiration that could be pursued in the midst of existing objective and subjective conditions.

The immediate fulfillment of that political program which, despite not being socialist, opened the doors to socialism shook the economic and social structure--maintained in our country for over 50 years of a pseudorepublic--to its foundations. Having fulfilled the imperative of national independence, which had led the Mambises of Yara and Baire to revolt and had been an inspiration for the fighters of the neocolonial phase, the revolution set out to free the working class from capitalist exploitation, to achieve full emancipation of the oppressed and, finally, to undertake the path of socialist building as had been proclaimed on 16 April 1961.

The radical measures adopted by the revolutionary government had a twofold effect. On the one side, in the midst of the masses which could see their hopes fulfilled and for the first time felt they controlled their destiny, a change in awareness was taking place in accordance with the new process being lived by the country. On another side, the national oligarchic minority, having been divested of power and class privileges, was reacting negatively to the Cuban Revolution. As a logical consequence to this process, a class struggle was unleashed which attained its most violent manifestations with the actions of certain counterrevolutionary groups directly supported by Yankee imperialism.

Today we recall those past times when the sabotages, the pirate attacks, crimes against workers, peasants and students, bribery and threats were the maneuvers of imperialism and its agents in their effort to check the revolution's advance. The bourgeois, the capitalists, the exploiters and the henchmen did not easily resign themselves to history's overpowering march. Imperialism could not accept having lost the rich source of wealth and profits that the small Caribbean island represented and could not passively let its example fire up the proindependence yearnings of enslaved America. But our people were not willing to let their independence be snatched away, the independence that had been gained with the blood of several generations of Cubans and many years of struggle. Barely 3 months after victory, the state security organs, whose 20th anniversary was recently commemorated, were created to preserve the revolution's legitimate gains and protect the lives of its leaders. Since that time, the people have confronted the enemy through the efforts of a silent and anonymous army which was willing to do without honor and glory but determined to pay for, at whatever price necessary, the right to build the people's own destiny. Before that historic year 1959 ended, the Revolutionary National Militias were created on 26 October.

At the mass event during which unforgettable Commander Camilo Cienfuegos spoke for the last time [applause], the uniformed people pledged before Fidel and history their firm determination to defend the fatherland with arms, making every shop, every furrow, every office, every classroom, every factory a battle trench to fight against the revolution's enemies.

And it was those militiamen who courageously fought back the treacherous attacks of imperialism and its allies against our people.

The revolution only had one path to follow in order to survive and continue its beautiful work, and this was to devote a large part of its enormous efforts to strengthening the country's defensive capability, to the military and combat training of all people, without neglecting for a single instant production and the educational revolution that we were beginning to implement.

More than 4 centuries of colonial and neocolonial domination forced us more than once to speak the language of arms. For over a century, we often had to substitute the guerrilla rifle or the liberating machete for the hoe. Once freedom had been gained, we were not allowed to work and build in peace as was our inviolable right. As a consequence of such a hostile policy, our people, traditionally peace-loving but always willing to die for the sake of sovereignty, became a towering force ready to resist any aggression. A little before the attack at Playa Giron, the Revolutionary Armed Forces had already begun to recruit a large mass of youths who, faced with the dilemma of death or enslavement, chose to take up arms before allowing the return of an ignominious past.

Those youths, almost children, set aside the pleasures and activities of their youth and grew up fast, becoming hardened combatants on whose shoulders fell the beautiful responsibility of preserving and guaranteeing the building of a better future. That was the new type of army forged by the revolution, the standardbearer of our Mambises' patriotic legacy and follower of the example set by the glorious rebel army; a new army closely tied to the people's future, because from the people it had emerged, with the people it had become strong and for the people it shed its blood many times.

Those were the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR] which, loyal to the undying memory of the fallen rebel combatants, continued their mission of protecting our sovereignty. Those were the Revolutionary Armed Forces that 14 years later, together with their Angolan brothers, waged one of the most extraordinary battles against imperialism [applause] of our era, writing a beautiful page of proletarian internationalism and close anti-imperialist solidarity, to the pride and honor of all Cubans. If in April 1961 the FAR was a poorly armed institution, lacking experience and sufficient training, the Angolan military campaign demonstrated its fighting prowess, its tactical, strategic and logistical preparation and its extraordinary revolutionary and Marxist-Leninist awareness.

Those were some of the decisive factors that contributed to the triumph over the invading troops in Angola. They dealt a crushing defeat to imperialism, writing into the history books an African Giron. A few days before the mercenary invasion of our country, the new army created by the revolution had demonstrated its courageous fiber. Those Revolutionary Armed Forces, with insufficient arms and little combat experience, but with an extraordinary discipline and a high sense of duty, had to fight back the criminal early-morning air raid of 15 April. Neither the destruction of a large number of our very few aircraft nor the lack of suitable weapons intimidated our combatants who, without hesitation and with absolute disregard for their lives, resisted and fought back the cowardly aggression.

Those instances of courage and the dramatic hours that followed are indelibly engraved in the history books. In moments as difficult as those is when a nation can be truly evaluated. Our people demonstrated at that time their gigantic stature, their discipline, their organization and their loyalty to the revolutionary cause by marching to their battle posts in response to the appeal issued by Fidel and the revolution.

It is not necessary to recount the moments that followed, waiting for the mercenary aggressor, the heat of the battle, and the annihilation of the invasion after the last enemy position on the coast of Playa Giron had surrendered.

For all of us, the image of our children-soldiers will be unforgettable, looking through their cannon sights and riding inside their tanks. Our pilots, courageously counterattacking with their inadequate aircraft the enemy that was bringing destruction and death, will be unforgettable. Equally unforgettable will be the image of our commander in chief personally assuming command of the battle, [applause] reliving his days as a guerrilla chieftain and sharing the frontline risks with all our courageous combatants.

What did this first defeat on the American Continent represent for imperialism? With how much noise did the wornout legend of its invincibility come crashing down? How embarrassingly did its arrogance and repugnant pride bite the dust? It is true that imperialism has continued to be powerful to date but, since 19 April 1961, the oppressed peoples of America and the world do not hesitate to confront it, inspired by the example set by our men and women 18 years ago.

But, paradoxically, the imperialists themselves were the ones who, with the hope of revitalizing their battered image of supreme representatives of the human species, did not immediately assimilate the lesson they received at Giron. If in 1961 all of mankind had witnessed the overwhelming victory of the Cuban troops over the mercenary invasion launched against our people by imperialism, in October 1962, barely 1 year and 6 months after their military defeat, the North American warmongering circles resumed their policy of hostility against the revolution, this time threatening to unleash a direct aggression that could become a nuclear war. The dignity and courage of our people and the militant solidarity of the Soviet Union and other countries of the socialist community [applause] checked the cruel intentions of imperialism. That unquestionable triumph of socialism and the progressive and peace-loving forces demonstrated that the worldwide balance of forces was increasingly leaning toward the socialist cause.

Today's world is not the same as that of the beginning of the 60's. Socialism is already an irreversible fact that is increasing its influence and enlarging its might as the ideas of Marxism-Leninism become more deeply rooted in the international labor movement.

Many peoples have attained their independence in the course of the past 18 years and have sovereignly undertaken the path toward the accomplishment of their economic and social gains. In diverse parts of the world, the popular masses have rebelled against military dictatorships or monarchic regimes that have subjugated them for decades and have finally achieved victory. Numerous countries in America have revolted against the pressures of imperialism and have reestablished relations with our fatherland based on mutual respect and reciprocal cooperation.

Imperialism has also experienced transformations and has gained new experiences over these past 18 years. However, the transformations have been very unfavorable and the experiences extremely bitter. The crushing defeat of the Yankee army in heroic Vietnam [applause] and the Watergate scandal, along with the big economic crisis that the capitalist world is experiencing, have been crushing blows to the imperialist economy and policy. Carrying out the war in Southeast Asia not only meant greater plundering of the neocolonies, but also a considerable burden on the North American people. The murky and repugnant Watergate scandal, which to world public opinion became the greatest political scandal in United States history in this century, confirmed that imperialism does not have an iota of morality and honesty.

Despite the economic chaos that is still overwhelming imperialism, and despite the fact that its political image has been totally weakened, imperialism is trying new methods to redeem its sad image of a defeated conqueror and overcome the harmful economic effects of its frustrated military adventures in Indochina and against the liberation of scores of countries throughout the world.

As supporters of the most unjust causes, the imperialists openly support crime and treason in all its manifestations anywhere in today's troubled world. The Fascist Chilean junta and the other tyrannical regimes in Latin America are surviving thanks to the support of imperialism. Imperialism has tried to foment divisionism among fraternal African nations. Imperialism has assumed a hypocritical position as neutral mediator in the Arab-Israeli conflict and encouraged the ratification of the Camp David betrayal. Imperialism supported the genocidal and pro-Maoist regime of Pol Pot and Ieng Sary in Kampuchea. Imperialism has encouraged the Chinese ruling clique in its treacherous and barbarous aggression against the thousand-times heroic Vietnamese people.

Why is it that imperialism has still not learned the complete and frequent lessons of contemporary history? Why does it still underestimate the people of the world, the same people who recently waged their victorious battle against oppression and injustice just as we did in Giron 18 years ago?

The imperialists have not forgotten their first defeat in America. They cannot forget it because it taught them of our courage and the irreversibility of the revolution which would pave the way for socialism on our continent. The memory of other Girons no less heroic and crushing than ours will not be erased from their feverish and sick mind.

Aware of its impotence and corruption and certain of its rapidly nearing demise, imperialism, which came to the world gushing blood and generating hatred, is striking its last blows, the most dangerous because they are the most desperate ones, and in the face of these attempts at changing the future of man leads mankind toward an unending night of nuclear war and division of the world's progressive forces. The socialist community, international proletariat and national liberation movements should unite their anti-imperialist action as never before to realize their noble ideals of independence, justice and peace.

In this hard struggle in defense of the gains of socialism and for the just aspirations of liberty for the world's oppressed people and the inalienable rights of the countries that are already independent, the Communist Party of Cuba, the revolution and our people assume a firm and consistent position with the same ideas we pledged to defend with our lives on the eve of the attack on Playa Giron. [applause] Without making a single concession to the enemy, without ever having hesitated from the moment we proclaimed with legitimate pride the socialist nature of the Cuban revolutionary process, we have always based our actions on the principles of Marxism-Leninism. These principles have been and will be defended by our people with determination on any field and in any trench with firm ideological concepts or with the fire of their victorious weapons. [prolonged applause]

Comrades: Today the invincibility of the revolution has been completely demonstrated. Imperialism still persists in maintaining our country under a criminal economic blockade. However, it has become convinced that our moral standard is incorruptible, just as our principles and self-determination are inviolable. The imperialists have finally understood the uselessness of any effort aimed at changing the path selected by the Cuban people. They could never make us yield. They could never bribe us. They could never frighten us. And this has been and will be our greatest pride as real communists.

Today we are not experiencing days like those in the past, when we had to work with rifles on our shoulders and under continuous threats and constant attacks that many times tested our integrity and patriotism. We still are and always will continue to be zealous and firm guardians of the gains of the revolution, of the security of the homeland and happiness of all the people.

We have gained the right to devote our greatest efforts to the war we have declared on economic underdevelopment as the saddest inheritance we received from almost 400 years of colonial and neocolonial domination.

With countless demonstrations of courage, we are gaining the right to freely build a more just and humane society. This struggle of today and this battle of today are not less heroic than the struggles and battles of the past, in which we often were willing to give our lives for the revolution. In this battle for development of the country's economy, we must be willing to give our best effort without sparing work and sacrifices, just as in the past we did not spare our courage or blood.

Over these past 18 years, the commemoration of the Playa Giron victory has become a gigantic productive drive in which our people have turned all their efforts to push numerous production projects. It is traditional that on these days dedicated to celebrating the triumph over the mercenary invasion the people's productive enthusiasm is doubled, especially in activities related to the sugar harvest and other agricultural sectors. On this occasion, the drive has been a special one because it has been developed within the framework of the resolutions of the 14th Congress of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers held a few months ago.

Our working class--bearer of the glorious banners of the proletariat and Marxism-Leninism and follower of the immortal example of Jesus Menendez, Aracelio Iglesias and Lazaro Pena--[applause] is preparing to fulfill with determination the precise guidelines of our commander in chief at the closing session of the labor congress.

We have had to experience the difficult but beautiful phase of building socialism, and in this period in which we are building the foundation for a new society there are many activities that require all our perseverance and many sacrifices. Cuban workers, with their revolutionary consciousness, have responded to the call of the party with regard to the policy of economic austerity that we must develop in order to take maximum advantage of our resources and increase savings of raw materials, especially those coming from the capitalist market.

The inflationary policy followed by capitalism as a result of its current crisis naturally has affected us because the prices of our imports have tripled. Furthermore, the price of our principal export good--sugar--has dropped considerably in the world market. We are not a wealthy country. On the contrary, we are an underdeveloped country that is struggling to get rid of the bad things inherited from our colonial and neocolonial period and, as an expression of that longstanding economic distortion we depend primarily on the cultivation of sugarcane for our principal source of income. That is why we must continue developing our sugar industry to obtain the greatest possible benefit from each harvest. Now that we are close to ending the current sugar harvest, it is precisely the time when sugarcane reaches its greatest yield, and it is at this time when the effort must be most sustained. During the Giron drive, sugarcane cutting and grinding work, among others, has been carried out which has not responded satisfactorily and completely to our current needs and aspirations. During this productive drive--dedicated to the memory and example of the combatants at Playa Giron--we have not attained what we had planned; we have not offered to the country what was expected from this effort during these days which must be of untiring effort and absolute devotion to the battle for our economic development.

It is true that the rate of precipitation at the beginning of the harvest was not the most appropriate for grinding and achieving greater yields from the sugarcane, but the same cannot be said about the development of the drive during which various organizational factors have affected good development of work in the current sugar harvest, and we must face these deficiencies with determination and firmness, with the same determination and firmness that made the Playa Giron victory possible. With that same spirit and enthusiasm, we must continue this harvest of the people and the other productive activities during this drive and thereafter because our struggle to overcome economic development as soon as possible and our commitment to the heroes and martyrs of the homeland cannot be restricted only to a few days of the year. They must be the vital force that stimulates our daily work and our daily effort to build a better future.

On Sunday, 22 April, the birthdate of Vladimir Ilich Lenin, founder of the first worker and peasant state in the world, [applause] all of our people will be mobilized in a gigantic Red Sunday dedicated to the children of the thousand-times heroic Vietnamese people. [applause] When once again the Vietnamese children have seen their future in danger and their happiness threatened by the treacherous Maoist clique, and when once again napalm and lead have shattered the lives of hundreds of children, the Cubans--who so many times have reaffirmed our willingness to give even our blood to Vietnam--will make our best effort on that day for the children of the land of the unforgettable Ho Chi Minh, as convincing proof of our brotherhood and solidarity with the just cause of the dear Vietnamese people.

At the same time holding that Red Sunday will be a new demonstration of the affection and admiration the Cuban people have for the fraternal Soviet people on the anniversary of their first Red Sunday. [applause] The massive mobilization on 22 April coincides with the birth of Lenin. It will be a propitious time to give momentum to our immediate economic activities as the best way to honor the maximum guide of the world proletariat and continuer of Marx' and Engel's task.

Comrades: It is true that we have many reasons to be optimistic about our future. These have been times of sacrifice and achievement. But the indisputable strengthening of the economic base of the revolution, the deepening of the revolutionary and internationalist awareness of the masses, the growing prestige achieved by our country throughout the world, the massive participation of the people in the institutionalization process in the country, the election of delegates to people's government organs, the implementation of the economic management and planning system, the development of artistic culture, the improvement of our educational system, the encouraging statistics in the public health sector and the solidary help of the socialist countries--headed by the USSR--are decisive factors that will allow us to continue successfully on our irreversable path toward the complete development of our socialist fatherland.

Future generations will express their infinite thanks for the generous blood that was spilled by the heroes and martyrs of yesterday and for the great efforts that have been made today. But they will also lament not having been participants in this decisive historic moment in which the Cuban people have often shown their heroism, unselfishness and firmness of principle, which will constitute our most precious ideological legacy to the men and women of tomorrow. We are proud of our history, achievements and sacrifices. We are proud of our revolutionary intransigence and our unbreakable adherence to Marxist-Leninist principles. And we believe that the best compensation and the greatest glory for us--the combatants of today, the construction workers of today and the communists of today--will be the pride that future generations feel for our task.

We have fought many times in our fatherland to preserve the achievements of the revolution, and in fulfilling our internationalist calling we have marched to other lands to contribute to the independence causes of many fraternal peoples.

For this reason we will never betray the proletariat's ideology, and for this reason we will never betray the confidence placed in us by all men and women who love peace and progress. Our people have spilt a lot of blood defending these principles that encourage them. It is impossible to betray the memory of those who won the worthy ahd honorable right to write their glorious names in history forever. To those who became fruitful seeds by being daily examples for us, to those who fell on any battlefield--in Yara or the Sierra Maestra; in Bolivia or Ethiopia--to those who at the cost of their lives made possible the victory at Giron and the triumph of Socialist ideas in our fatherland, we raise the banners of our pure ideals higher than ever and express with profound gratitude our slogan of today and our eternal feelings. [applause]

Eternal glory and honor to the heroes and martyrs of the fatherland! [applause and shouts of "Viva"]

Long live the ideals defended at Playa Giron! [applause and shouts of "Viva"]

Long live proletarian internationalism! [applause and shouts of "Viva"]

Long live our commander in chief! [applause and shouts of "Viva"]

Fatherland or death! [applause and shouts of "We will win"]

JAMAICAN FOREIGN MINISTER CONCLUDES OFFICIAL VISIT

Official Talks

FL202119 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2102 GMT 20 Apr 79 FL

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of the PCC Politburo and vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, today received Percival J. Patterson, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of Jamaica. During the meeting, matters regarding the international situation and bilateral relations, especially those concerning preparations for the non-alined countries sixth summit conference, were discussed.

The Jamaican foreign minister was accompanied by his personal aide (Mrs. E. Biamby), and (Winston Davis) and (Neville Symes), Jamaican minister-counselor and charge d'affaires in Cuba, respectively. Participants in the meeting for the Cuban side were Comrade Isidoro Malmierca, member of the Central Committee and minister of foreign affairs; and Carlos Martinez Salsamendi, adviser to Comrade Carlos Rafael Rodriguez.

Further on Talks

FL201738 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 20 Apr 79 FL

[Text] Official talks continued this morning between the Cuban and Jamaican foreign ministers, Isidoro Malmierca and Percival James Patterson, respectively. The members of the Jamaican delegation that is accompanying the foreign minister and deputy prime minister of the fraternal country are participating in the talks.

Participants for the Cuban side include Vice Foreign Minister Jose R. Viera and Jose Fernandez Cossio and other Foreign Ministry officials. Ulises Estrada, deputy chief of the America Department of the party Central Committee, attended this working session.

Meeting With Fidel Castro

FL211617 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1603 GMT 21 Apr 79 FL

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has met with Percival J. Patterson, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, foreign trade and tourism of Jamaica. Percival J. Patterson is making an official visit to our country accompanied by a delegation. Jamaican National Security Minister Dudley Thompson, Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca Peoli, Cuban Ambassador to Jamaica Ramon Pez-Ferro and (Winston Davis), Jamaican ambassador-designate to Cuba, attended the meeting.

Departure Ceremony

PA220308 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Apr 79 PA

[Text] Percival J. Patterson, Jamaican deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has left from the Havana airport after concluding an official 4-day visit to Cuba. The Jamaican delegation was seen off by Rene Anillo, first vice minister of foreign relations, and other Foreign Ministry officials. During his stay in Cuba, Patterson met with Fidel Castro, president of the Cuban Councils of State and Ministers, and Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the councils. He also met with Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca.

FIDEL CASTRO APPEALS FOR INCREASED SUGAR HARVEST EFFORT

FL211318 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1045 GMT 21 Apr 79 FL

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has called for doubling efforts so that not a single piece of the sugarcane planned for grinding during the current sugar harvest is not ground. He made the appeal yesterday at a meeting with sectors involved in the harvest. The meeting was held at Revolution Palace. The commander in chief emphasized the need to double efforts in May, since the final period of the harvest coincides with the planting of sugarcane. Fidel cautioned that it is possible that rains may complicate completion of the harvest. Therefore, he suggested that necessary measures be taken to guarantee supplies of sugarcane to sugarmills even under difficult weather conditions.

Fidel likewise emphasized the importance of making spare parts, especially for the sugarcane harvesters and hoisters, and conserving oil in the sugar industry, saying this is vital for the country's economy.

Fidel expressed satisfaction with the completion of agricultural plans for 1980, emphasizing the need to pay attention to the development of irrigation plans, because 46,000 caballerias will be under irrigation systems by 1980. Our maximum leader stressed the importance of the automation process undertaken in sugarmills to develop our number one industry.

Army Gen Raul Castro, second secretary of the PCC Central Committee, members of the Politburo, vice presidents of the Council of Ministers, ministers, the first secretaries of the provincial party committees, leaders of the Union of Young Communists and mass organizations, the presidents of the People's Government Provincial Assemblies, and national and provincial administrative officials attended the meeting.

JAMAICA

REPORT ON PATTERSON ACTIVITIES IN CUBA

FL202301 Kingston Domestic Service in English 2230 GMT 20 Apr 79 FL

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs P. J. Patterson told reporters in Cuba today that Jamaica will be cooperating closely with Cuba to ensure the success of the forthcoming sixth summit conference of the nonalined movement to be held in that country. Mr Patterson expressed the view that the summit conference will accelerate the worldwide struggle for the new international economic order.

The minister of foreign affairs continued his discussions with top Cuban Government officials today. He held talks with the three deputy ministers of foreign affairs--Jose Viera, Jose Fernandez and Ricardo Alarcon. Yesterday he met with the foreign minister, Isidoro Malmierca. The talks are in preparation for the summit. Jamaica and Cuba are members of the Coordinating Bureau of the nonalined movement. However, the discussions between the Jamaican and Cuban officials also covered the visit to the Soviet Union by Prime Minister Manley and the forthcoming Carifesta celebration.

A joint communique is to be issued tomorrow after the close of the talks. And Mr Patterson was today taken on a tour of the building being constructed to accommodate the summit. He commended the structure and promised to make special mention of it when he attended the bureau meeting of the nonalined movement in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Among those accompanying the foreign affairs minister [is] the deputy director of the Political Division in the ministry, Mr (Dale Anderson).

UNESCO DIRECTOR OPENS REGIONAL OFFICE IN KINGSTON

FL191605 Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 14 Apr 79 p 2 FL

[Excerpt] A declaration that the new subregional office of UNESCO in the Carribbean would play "an exceptional role" in helping the peoples of the region to achieve peace, dignity and progress was made by UNESCO's director general, Dr Amadou Mahtar M'Bow, as he officially opened the new UNESCO office at 2A Ruthven Road on Thursday in Kingston.

There was, said Dr M'Bow, a deep desire by the territories of the Caribbean for regional cooperation, accompanied by a "strong wish" to strengthen international cooperation.

In this regard, UNESCO was always "striving to contribute to the great changes which the world now wants," and it was particularly concerned to make its contribution to the changes now taking place among the peoples of the world, including those in the Caribbean.

The new UNESCO office "responds to the need expressed by all the countries of the Caribbean" during the recent regional education ministers meeting in Barbados, he said.

Dr M'Bow expressed profound gratitude to the government of Jamaica for offering UNESCO the the facilities which had enabled establishment of the new subregional office in Kingston. "It was," he said, "an act of faith in the future of regional cooperation and of international cooperation," and was evidence of the government's intention and desire to facilitate and assist regional cooperation.

MEXICO

TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH CZECHOSLOVAKIA

PA211214 Paris AFP in Spanish 0117 GMT 21 Apr 79 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 20 Apr (AFP)--Mexico and Czechoslovakia signed a basic scientific and technical cooperation agreement today, it was announced here after the second meeting of the Mexican-Czechoslovak Economic and Trade Commission. According to the agreement, Czechoslovakia will cooperate with Mexico in the production of machinery and equipment through the transfer of technology and joint investments.

PERU

GOVERNMENT PERMITS TWO OPPOSITION PERIODICALS TO REOPEN

PA210406 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0012 GMT 21 Apr 79 PA

[Excerpts] Lima, 20 Apr (EFE)--The Peruvian military government today authorized the reopening of 2 of the 10 opposition publications that it shut down last February, and offered to gradually open the rest.

Gen Juan Estrada, national information system chief, made the announcement. He bargained with the directors of the magazines that had been closed after they called off the hunger strike in demand of the "lifting of the clampdown." About 19 newsmen of those magazines went on a 5-day fast. General Estrada said that the regime is "most willing to uphold freedom of the press in line with its humanitarian policy" and that the closed publications number "just a few" in relation to the total number of publications in the country.

The authorization to reopen was given to the conservative weekly EL TIEMPO and UNIDAD, the official mouthpiece of the pro-Moscow Communist Party. They will be able to circulate beginning Monday, 23 April.

Protest by Newsmen

PA212127 Paris AFP in Spanish 1928 GMT 21 Apr 79 PA

[Text] Lima, 21 Apr (AFP)--Newsmen who went on a hunger strike due to the closing of 10 independent periodicals today protested the government's decision to permit the reopening of only two of those publications--breaking, according to them, its promise to completely solve the problem. The decision, according to the 18 former strikers, "constitutes a delaying and arbitrary procedure that contradicts the essence of the formal agreement reached on Tuesday, April 10, between the government and the newspapermen who were on a hunger strike."

The suspension of the strike, it was recalled, was agreed upon at the request of the government so as not to mar the visit of FRG Chancellor Helmut Schmidt. The newsmen noted that Economy Minister Javier Silva Ruete gave assurances in the name of the president of the republic that the periodicals would be reopened shortly, which was confirmed, they added, by Information Minister Gen Jorge Estrada and by Interior Minister Gen Fernando Velit.

A communique issued by the newsmen said that "now, in view of statements that do not even fix a deadline for the authorization to reopen all closed periodcals, we demand that the government make good the promise it made at the time we suspended the hunger strike."